

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

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Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(17) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(2) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 08/10/2022

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 08/12/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0736

Agenda Date: 08/10/2022

Item Number: 9

Summary: CIS Filling Summary: While Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council applauds efforts to reduce corruption, we do not support the proposal to bypass the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) and bring “high value projects” directly to the City Council. High value projects are defined by City Planning as projects of significant size without inclusion projects of less size that have significant impact on their neighboring communities and, indeed, our entire city. All projects of significant impact or size deserve full vetting with sufficient time and input devoted to evaluating their impacts. The City Planning Report points out that the proposed action would have the effect of limiting public participation in the approval process. The proposed procedural change to bypass the PLUM Committee would result in delay of other City Council business. Alternative solution(s) must be developed to deal with the problem of the corruption in the planning and land use process engaged in by the City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee and the City Council. The Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council opposes the City Council motion seeking bypass of the PLUM Committee for “high value projects”.

Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council
Community Impact Statement (CIS) for Council File 22-0736

Summary: Regarding diversion “High Value” projects directly to City Council as proposed in [CF 22-0736](#).

The Board of the Woodland Hills-Warner Center-Neighborhood Council [WHWCNC] adopts this community impact statement to **not support** proposed actions in [CF 22-0736](#) for the substantive reasons stated:

Regarding City Council Motions related to High Value Projects ([CF 22-0736](#)) the Woodland Hills - Warner Center Neighborhood Council (WHWCNC) reiterates its opposition as previously stated in its CIS for CF 20-1044 and requests that the City Council reconsider their decision to move evaluations of “High Value” projects directly to the full City Council instead of the City Council’s PLUM Committee for reasons stated below:

WHEREAS, while the WHWCNC fully appreciates the efforts to reduce corruption in its determinations, the WHWCNC believe that bypassing the City Council’s Planning, Land Use and Mobility (PLUM) Committee bypasses the last critical opportunity to fully vet and evaluate the most impactful projects in the City of Los Angeles and their effects on the communities they intend to build in; and,

WHEREAS, the WHWCNC believes circumventing the Council’s PLUM Committee could lead to increased corruption with less review; and,

WHEREAS, the WHWCNC insists that these “High Value” projects provide the public many opportunities to comment on the significant impacts to their neighborhoods, land values and traffic effects, which we doubt can be accommodated by the full City Council; and,

WHEREAS, the motion to expedite projects would have the effect of limiting public participation in the approval process by elimination of any hearing held by the City PLUM Committee, since the pressing matters are of the City Council will curtail the amount of time for public participation now handled in meetings at the PLUM Committee stage; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Department Report has presented quantifiable determination as to exactly what constitutes a “High Value” project, and questions whether the full City Council can dedicate the time, staffing or depth of understanding to acquire a full understanding of all the significant issues that could/will significantly impact a neighborhood or community; and

WHEREAS, as the City has created insufficient barriers to the lawyers, private planners, lobbyists and other individuals in promoting a “High Value” project to Council Members, thus creating the opportunity for even more City decision makers to be targets for corruption, the City Council would be better off limiting the access of developers and lobbyists to Councilmembers for the purpose of influencing project determinations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council should make real efforts to create a true independent review of these “High Value” projects, which cost hundreds of millions of dollars and affect the lifestyles and environment of hundreds of thousands of Los Angeles residents and businesses for multiple decades;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council strongly urges the Los Angeles City Council to consider the following points for “High Value” projects and delay passage until the following are addressed for the benefit of the public:

1. Alternative definitions of a “High Value” project be offered by City Planning, for the public and the City Council, that reflect “High Impact” since size does not always match impacts. Size should not be the only determinant.
2. The public should know in advance for transparency as to exactly which individual(s) using which requirements will have the authority to determine if a project is sent to the City PLUM Committee or sent directly to the full City Council for resolution.
3. A solution is found that creates a greater timeframe and more generous appeal process for the public—and specifically for stakeholders in the neighborhood where the project is slated to be built—before the sitting City Council members make any final decisions.
4. Requirements be developed to prohibit contact outside of public meetings between “High Value” applicants or their representative and the Members of the City Council or their staff.
5. The proposed “Policies and Procedures” undergoing review by the City Attorney must include and not limit opportunity for Neighborhood Councils to participate in project vetting.
6. For “High Value” projects, Neighborhood Councils should be provided additional time to comment on projects due to the complexity of issues.
7. Neighborhood Councils and the Public should be given additional time to comment after changes introduced within the meeting or since the last public meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council advise the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles Planning Department, and the City Department of Neighborhood Empowerment must perform greater outreach to the residents and business of the City of Los Angeles and to their elected Neighborhood Councils so that the constituents of this City can have a greater voice in the most significant projects impacting our surrounding environment and lifestyles.

FURTHERMORE, the Board will notify by email the City Council President, Councilmember Blumenfield and Councilmembers of the Planning, Land Use and Management Committee of its position to oppose the current actions being considered.

Board Vote: Yes 17

No 0

Abstain 1

Ineligible 2